

Appl. No.: 10/814,820
Amendment dated May 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A splitter device, comprising:
a first rotatable shaft extending axially through a first cutting blade;
a second rotatable shaft disposed substantially parallel to the first rotatable shaft; and
a second cutting blade having the second rotatable shaft extending axially therethrough,
the second cutting blade being axially movable relative to the second rotatable shaft such that the second cutting blade can be adjusted to maintain a cutting position adjacent to the first cutting blade and in a fixed spaced relation from the first cutting blade so as to compensate for blade wear.
2. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, further comprising a collar having the second rotatable shaft extending axially therethrough, the collar being configured to be capable of fixedly engaging the second rotatable shaft so as to axially fix the second cutting blade with respect to the second rotatable shaft.
3. (Original) A device according to Claim 2 further comprising at least one securing member capable of operably engaging the collar so as to secure the collar to the second rotatable shaft.
4. (Original) A device according to Claim 3, wherein the securing member comprises a fastening device configured to be capable of extending radially through the collar so as to provide a fixed engagement between the collar and the second rotatable shaft.
5. (Original) A device according to Claim 3, wherein the collar comprises a non-contiguous ring, defining an angular gap and wherein the securing member comprises a fastening device capable of operably engaging the collar, across the gap, so as to reduce the gap and provide a friction engagement between the collar and the second rotatable shaft.

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6. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second cutting blades is substantially circular in profile.
7. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second cutting blades is non-circular in profile.
8. (Original) A device according to Claim 2, wherein the collar further comprises an axially-extending keyway and a threaded radially-outward surface, and the device further includes a key configured to be operably engaged between the collar keyway and the second rotatable shaft so as to rotationally fix the collar with respect to the second rotatable shaft.
9. (Original) A device according to Claim 8, wherein the radially-outward surface of the collar is configured to extend through the second cutting blade.
10. (Original) A device according to Claim 8, further comprising:
 - a first sleeve having the collar extending therethrough and configured to engage the threaded radially-outward surface of the collar; a pin operably engaged with the first sleeve and extending axially therefrom;
 - an axial aperture defined by the second cutting blade and configured to receive the pin so as to rotationally fix the second cutting blade with respect to the first sleeve;
 - a second sleeve having the collar extending therethrough, the second sleeve being arranged opposite the second cutting blade from the first sleeve and being capable of cooperating with the first sleeve to rotationally fix the second cutting blade with respect to the collar.